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Letter dated 30 October 2000 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you, annexed hereto, the final communiqué of the Summit Meeting of the Heads of State of Central Africa, held at Kinshasa on 27 October 2000.

My Government requests that you would have the text of the final communiqué circulated as an official document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) André **Mwamba Kapanga**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 30 October 2000 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Summit Meeting of Heads of State of Central Africa, Kinshasa, 27 October 2000

Final communiqué

1. At the invitation of His Excellency Mr. Laurent-Désiré Kabila, President of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, a Summit Meeting of Heads of State of Central Africa was held at Kinshasa on 27 October 2000.

2. The Summit Meeting was preceded by a meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs on 26 October 2000.

3. The following took part in the work of the Summit Meeting:

Their Excellencies:

El Hadj Omar Bongo, President of the Gabonese Republic;

Mr. José Eduardo dos Santos, President of the Republic of Angola;

Mr. Denis Sassou Nguesso, President of the Republic of the Congo;

Mr. Laurent-Désiré Kabila, President of the Democratic Republic of the Congo;

Mr. Angel Serafin Seriche Dougan Malabo, Prime Minister, Head of Government, representing His Excellency Mr. Obiang Nguema Mbasogo, President of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea;

Mr. Anicet Georges Dologuele, Prime Minister, Head of Government, representing His Excellency Mr. Ange Felix Patasse, President of the Central African Republic.

4. At the opening meeting a welcoming statement was made by Mr. Laurent-Désiré Kabila, President of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, during which he described the war situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

5. The participants then continued their deliberations in a closed meeting.

6. The exchanges focused, inter alia, on:

- The persistence of the aggression against the Democratic Republic of the Congo;
- The risk of a conflagration hanging over the whole subregion of Central Africa as a result of this aggression;
- The involvement and contribution of States of the subregion in the search for ways and means to put an end to the aggression.

A. Concerning the persistence of the aggression

7. The Heads of State reaffirmed that the Democratic Republic of the Congo is being subjected to aggression, as has, moreover, been recognized by the United Nations Security Council in its resolutions 1234 (1999) of 9 April 1999 and 1304 (2000) of 16 June 2000 and in the judgment of the International Court of Justice of 1 July 2000.

Citing the principle of strict respect for the territorial integrity of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, a principle supported unanimously by the whole international community, the Heads of State appealed for a stronger commitment by the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity to the resolution of the Congolese crisis.

They expressed appreciation for the support which certain States members of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) were giving to the Democratic Republic of the Congo for the maintenance of peace and stability in that country.

They also welcomed and encouraged the new dynamic that had emerged from the Maputo Summit Meeting held on 16 October 2000, which had brought together face to face the aggressor States and the State against which the aggression was being committed.

B. With regard to the risk of conflagration

8. The Heads of State noted that the aggression involved, inter alia:

- The uncontrolled influx of refugees into neighbouring countries;
- The dislocation of economic trading channels;
- The exacerbation of feelings of ethnic hatred among peoples even though they are fraternal peoples;
- The lack of security on the Congo and Oubangui rivers.

9. Fearing that the war might spread throughout the subregion of Central Africa, the Heads of State assessed the ways and means that could contribute to the subregion's overall stability.

C. On the question of the contribution and involvement of States

10. The Heads of State of the subregion renewed their expressions of solidarity and fraternity with the Congolese people and undertook to do everything they could to restore peace in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

They considered the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement to be an important basis for peace in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

They supported the view expressed by the Secretary-General of the United Nations concerning a reevaluation of the Lusaka Agreement in his letter of 14 August 2000 addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2000/799), which reads:

> "The Lusaka peace process is therefore currently undergoing an extremely challenging phase, which requires substantial reevaluation not only on the part of its signatories, but also of the United Nations. In particular, the role the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) can play under current circumstances remains unclear. At the same time, there have been major developments whose implications should be fully studied and taken into consideration before I submit my recommendations to the Security Council."

They demanded the unconditional withdrawal of the aggressors from the Democratic Republic of the Congo in order to allow the Congolese people to find a solution to internal policy questions in full sovereignty.

They posed the principle of the deployment of neutral intervention troops on the common frontier of protagonist States as a solution to the security claims generally put forward by Rwanda, Uganda and Burundi.

In order to prevent and put an end to conflicts, as the case may be, the Heads of State made a firm commitment to arrange for the acceleration in their respective countries of the procedures for the ratification of the agreements concluded both on the inter-State level and within the framework of the Economic Community of Central African States or the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa.

These agreements include:

(a) The Non-Aggression Pact between States members of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa;

(b) The Mutual Assistance Pact between States members of the Economic Community of Central African States;

(c) The Protocol concerning the Council for Peace and Security in Central Africa.

11. They made an urgent appeal to the specialized agencies of the United Nations and to the international community to assume their responsibilities in the face of the influx of refugees from the Democratic Republic of the Congo into neighbouring countries.

12. They agreed that, in view of the need for subregional integration, priority should be given to the strengthening of multisectoral exchanges between the peoples of Central Africa.

13. The Heads of State decided to ensure security and free movement on the Congo and Oubangui rivers.

14. They also decided to establish an ad hoc ministerial committee to follow up on the decisions taken at the Summit Meeting. The committee, which is composed of the Republic of Angola, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Republic of the Congo and the Gabonese Republic, has been placed under the high authority of His Excellency El Hadj Omar Bongo, President of the Gabonese Republic.

15. On the conclusion of their deliberations, the Heads of State attending the Summit Meeting again expressed their gratitude to His Excellency Mr. Laurent-

Désiré Kabila, President of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and to the Government and people of the Congo for the fraternal welcome and hospitality offered to them during their brief stay in Kinshasa.

Done at Kinshasa, 27 October 2000